

Initiative Name:**Chronic Wasting Disease****Initiative Description:**

Chronic Wasting Disease is a brain disorder that kills deer and elk. The exact form of transmission is not known. CWD has appeared in deer and elk in Wisconsin and Illinois making it a threat to Michigan's deer and elk populations. CWD has been discovered in free-ranging cervids in Colorado, New Mexico, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. The disease has also been diagnosed in captive cervids in Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, Montana, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Saskatchewan and Alberta, Canada.

The DNR initiative is to work with recommendations from the Governor's CWD Taskforce to:

- Review existing state efforts regarding prevention of CWD.
- Develop and make recommendations to implement a comprehensive and coordinated state CWD prevention plan.
- Make recommendations on the clarification of enforcement authority to prevent the spread of CWD into Michigan and, if ever detected in Michigan, to prevent the spread within the state.
- Recommend a process for the development of a widely-accessible reference database of available and current information concerning CWD.
- Identify mechanisms to promote effective communications and coordination of efforts between state, federal, provincial, and local officials regarding CWD.

The task force made its recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Governor on October 19, 2003.

Expected Outcomes:*Administration Goals Attained:*

- Chronic Wasting Disease Solution

*Other Benefits and Outcomes:***Progress to Date:**

- Tracking of CWD positive deer/elk from out-of-state, contact hunters, offer proper meat/carcass disposal/incineration. Fall 2003, 21 positive animals tracked and the hunters contacted and carcasses disposed of.
- Restrict baiting and recreational viewing feeding to two gallons. The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) implemented a 50-mile buffer around the state to ban baiting and recreational feeding if CWD found in the buffer area.

- No CWD positive free-ranging or captive cervids have been found, so no control or eradication efforts or actions have been needed to date.
- Surveillance goals met for 2003 with no positives.
- Goals on track for 2004
- 60,000 CWD brochures printed and distributed
- Emerging Disease Issues web site centralized CWD web sites.